

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the Specification starting on page 7, line 3 as follows:

The implant, structured as a modular system, can be made variable in shape wherein the joining plate is configured as a polygon, in a rounded manner, or, alternatively, in a star-shaped manner. The star-shaped configuration of the joining plate, in particular, is set so that a closed surface is not formed as a sharp separating plane between the vertebrae and the implant arranged below the joining plate. This creates the possibility that an osseous connection will form between the two vertebrae wherein an implant can grow into place particularly well, particularly if bone chips, bone cement, or the like is used in supportive manner.